

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Production and Marketing Administration  
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

MAR 10 1949

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No. 301

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ALL AGRICULTURAL COUNTIES IN ACP - The (number) farmers of

county who are participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program are cooperating with farmers in all of the agricultural counties of the United States, says \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the county ACP committee.

Farmers through their ACP committees are carrying out farming practices to conserve soil and water in every county in the United States, except the 23 counties which are non-agricultural. In \_\_\_\_\_ county the main conservation practices being carried out by farmers are \_\_\_\_\_.

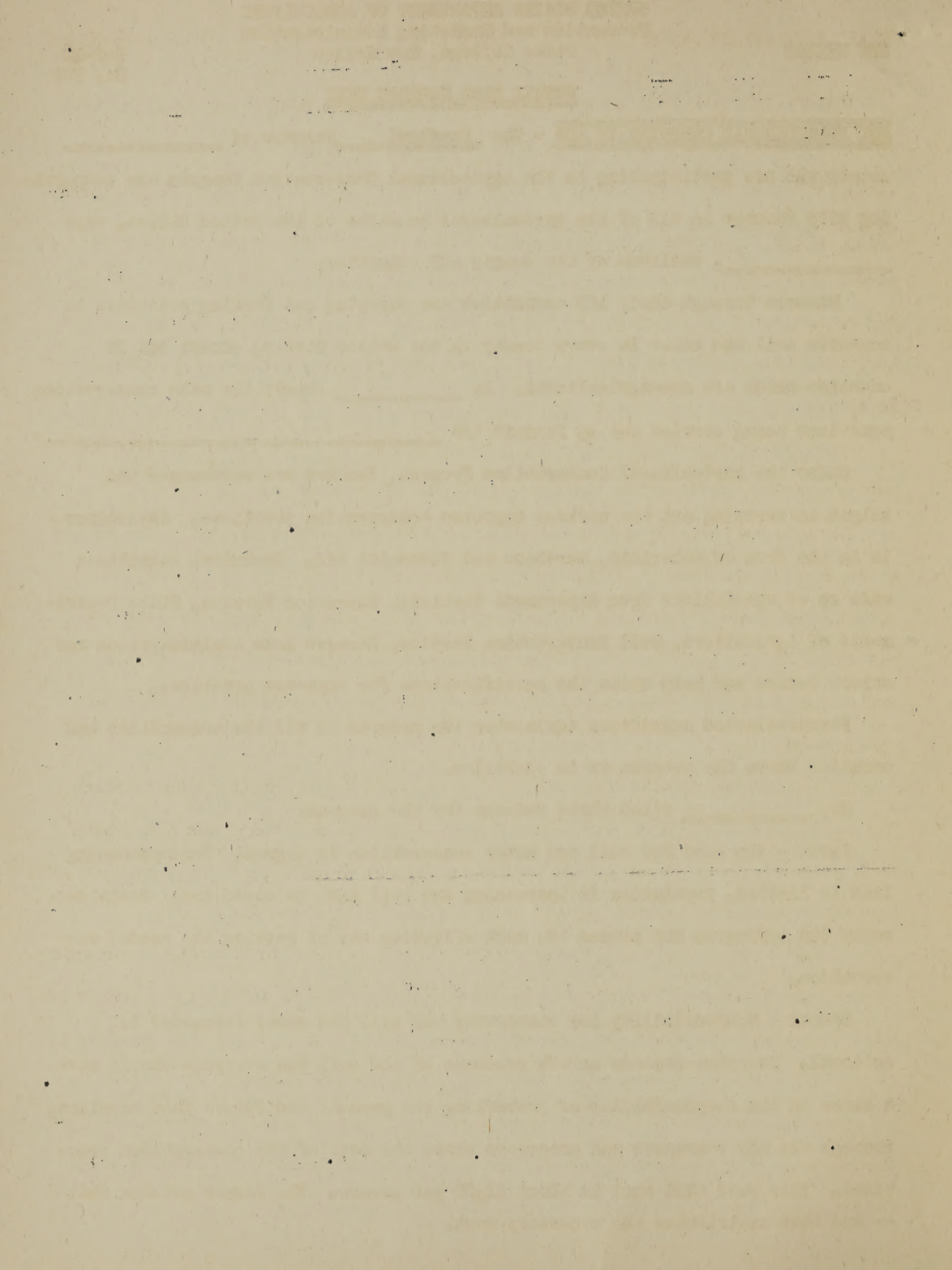
Under the Agricultural Conservation Program, farmers are encouraged and helped in carrying out the various approved conservation practices. Assistance is in the form of materials, services and financial aid. Technical committees made up of specialists from Experiment Stations, Extension Service, State Departments of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration and others review and help write the specifications for approved practices.

Farmer-elected committees administer the program in all the communities and counties where the program is in operation.

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ cites three reasons for the program:

First - The need for soil and water conservation is urgent. Food-producing land is limited, population is increasing and soil must be saved now. Assistance under the ACP program has proved the most effective way of getting the needed conservation.

Second - Responsibility for conserving our soil and water resources is national. Everyone depends on the products of the soil and everyone should have a share in the responsibility of protecting the present and future food supplies. Through the ACP consumers and producers share the cost of the conservation practices. This year that cost is about \$1.00 per person. The farmer matches that --- and then contributes the necessary work.





Third - It's the most economical way of getting the needed conservation work done. Erosion, if let go, becomes more expensive to correct with each passing year. Not only is there a bigger job to do but the soil lost cannot be restored.

TRIGG SEES STRENGTH IN FARM INFLUENCE - I have reached the conclusion that one cannot overemphasize the importance of farmer influence and judgment in meeting our agricultural conservation and other problems, Ralph S. Trigg, PMA Administrator, told farmer-committeemen at recent meetings in Ohio, Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee.

These meetings were Mr. Trigg's first opportunity to get into the field to meet State PMA committeemen since becoming PMA Administrator.

Through the farmer-committee system, said the Administrator, the voice of the folks down on the farm is continually brought to bear at State and Washington levels. He added, "Committee administration is Democracy at work, in its most effective form. I am sure that time will prove that the development of this system has been one of the great achievements of recent years in farm program development."

Discussing the future of the farm program, he pointed out that the problems lie in four major fields: (1) Conservation of our natural resources along with such production adjustment as may be necessary; (2) price support; (3) adequate markets at home and abroad; and (4) more efficiency in marketing.

On conservation he said, "I feel that every farmer should have the opportunity to participate in the Government's program to conserve soil and in my opinion that will require the continuation of payments....Experience has shown that conservation to be fully effective must be performed on a nation-wide basis."

"Price support should not be so high as to price the farmers' products out of the market, or to encourage over-production. Neither should it be so low as to fail to give the farmer a fair minimum of income security."





Referring to markets , he said ~~that~~ sooner or later we will need some sort of floor under consumption of farm products, the school lunch program being a step in this direction.

He called for continued research to develop new uses for farm products and less waste in getting products to consumers. "As producers, we've got to be market-minded ...and as marketers, to be production-minded."

Referring to the Production and Marketing Administration, Mr. Trigg said, "PMA was organized as the farmer's production and marketing administration. Its key purpose is to provide for the farmer a balanced and integrated program that will attack at the community, state, and national levels those aspects of both his production and marketing problems that he could not tackle successfully all by himself as an individual."

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SPRING PIG CROP DOWN - Fewer sows farrowing this spring, but a sharp increase in the number of pigs saved per litter, resulted in a 1948 spring pig crop of 51,421,000 head, a Bureau of Agricultural Economics survey indicates.

The 1948 spring pig crop was 3 percent below last spring's, the smallest spring crop since 1941, and 31 percent less than the record spring crop 1943. Sows farrowing were down 8 percent in numbers, but pigs saved per litter were 6.44 - the second largest on record.

Reports on breeding intentions for the fall indicate about the same number of sows to farrow as last fall. This would mean a combined 1948 spring and fall pig crop of 82.4 million head, 2 percent below 1947 and 5 percent below the 10-year 1937-46 average.

The generally favorable outlook for the 1948 corn crop, reduced livestock and poultry numbers, and a continued strong demand for meat, together with Department of Agriculture recommendations which call for a 10-percent increase in the fall pig crop, are factors encouraging producers to maintain hog production.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

AAA COMMITTEEMEN RISE TO TOP ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS - Albert J. Loveland, the new Under Secretary of Agriculture, is the second former AAA farmer-committeeman to rise within recent weeks to a top spot in government service. The other is Elmer F. Kruse, now Assistant Administrator for Commodity Credit Corporation, Production and Marketing Administration. Both men have been connected with AAA (later PMA) ever since the programs have been in effect.

Mr. Loveland was elected to membership on the Jackson township (Iowa) committee back in 1934. In 1937, he was elected a member of the Bremer County committee. Two years later he was named farmer-fieldman. In 1941, he went to the Iowa State AAA Committee as chairman, where he served until his appointment December 8, 1947, as director of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch, PMA, in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Kruse was elected chairman of the original AAA Committee in Auglaize County (Ohio) in 1933. After that, he served successively as State AAA Fieldman for Ohio and as Chairman of the Ohio State AAA Committee from 1936 to 1947, when he went to Washington as a PMA Administrator's Fieldman, in charge of program field operations in the North Central States.

Mr. Loveland began farming in 1914, and since 1937 has operated his 256-acre farm near Janesville, in Bremer County. Mr. Kruse has operated his general crops and livestock farm in Auglaize County for 30 years.

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FOOD EXPORTS TO DECLINE - Contrary to widespread belief, food exports from the United States next year probably will be smaller than they are this year, Ralph Trigg, Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration, recently told a food industry group.





Total food shipments are expected to decline from the nearly 19 million long tons shipped from the U. S. this year to a possible 17 million in 1948-49. Decreases are expected in exports of grain, fats and oils, eggs, dried fruits, rice, and dry beans and peas. Exports of sugar, dairy products, and fresh fruits may be a little larger.

Many people have the mistaken notion that shipments under the European Recovery Program will be in addition to those exported under the other programs, Mr. Trigg explained. This isn't true. Since the end of the war, U. S. food has been sent to Europe under a number of different programs, including UNRRA, Foreign Relief, Foreign Aid, and the Greek-Turkish Aid Programs. The ERP, as far as food is concerned, merely replaces any other programs which might have been undertaken for the ERP participating countries.

A gradual decline in the amount of food exported, the Administrator pointed out, will enable farmers to make an easier transition to normal conditions. At the same time, under "surplus commodity" provisions of the recovery program, it should be possible to channel substantial quantities of heavy-supply commodities into export outlets. This will serve to better markets here at home, and also add valuable supplements to the limited and monotonous diets of friendly countries abroad.

Mr. Trigg stressed the fact, however, that these "surpluses" must be practical commodities for recovery program shipment; in other words, the program cannot be used as a "bail out" for any commodity that happens to be in market trouble without regard for its practical value.

These so-called surplus provisions are:

- (1) When the Secretary of Agriculture determines that an agricultural commodity is surplus -- in excess of domestic requirements -- all ERP requirements for the commodity must be obtained in the U. S. as far as practicable;

- (2) When the Secretary determines that commodities acquired by the Commodity Credit Corporation under price-support programs are available for export sale, all



Federal agencies administering relief programs must buy such items to the greatest extent practicable;

(3) When the Secretary determines that the export of a surplus agricultural commodity should be encouraged, he may pay subsidies out of tariff revenue funds in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the sales price.

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NEW LAND PATTERNS SPELL MORE FOOD - As more and more farmers carry out soil and water conservation practices on their land the Nation's ability to produce the food for an ever increasing population is strengthened. The good prospects for crops this year, maintaining the 41 percent increase in food production during and since the war, are the immediate dividends of conservation farming, according to \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county agricultural conservation program.

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ says that the changes in farming can be seen across the country. Terraces, contour strip-cropping, trees, more grass and better pastures, woodlots and shelter belts, range and farm ponds, cover crops and green manure are among the program practices which are helping to increase fertility, to hold valuable topsoil on the land and to make better use of available moisture.

The Agricultural Conservation Program with farmer-elected committeemen and an active program in all of the 3,030 agricultural counties in the country, the chairman explains, is financially assisting farmers in carrying out needed conservation on their own farms.

The chairman points out that while much remains to be done, two-thirds of the Nation's farmers are now cooperating in the program to meet the erosion and depletion problems on their land. This program, is setting the pattern that will keep the Nation's farm land from washing and blowing away and which will keep it productive in the future.





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Cut-line for illustration accompanying above story:

LINES THAT CHECK EROSION. -- Contour stripcropping, terraces, grass and trees are important measures with which farmers are fighting erosion and saving soil.

\_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county agricultural conservation committee, says that only when all farmers cooperate to the fullest extent can the conservation problem be solved. He points to the 41-percent increase in food production since before World War II as an indication of the progress being made. With population increasing and land limited, the chairman calls for increased effort in meeting soil erosion and depletion problems.

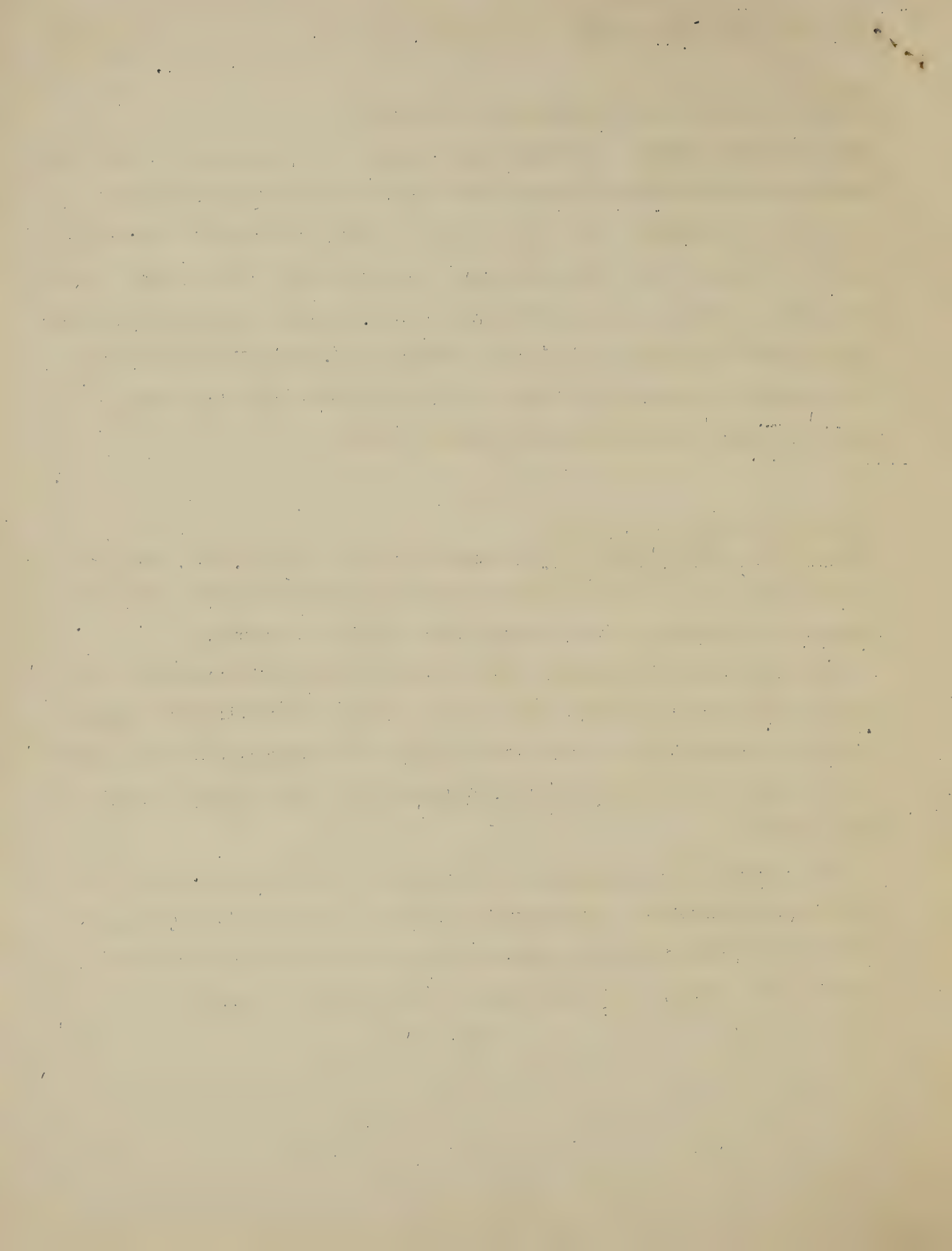
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1949 ACP FUNDS AUTHORIZATION UPPEd - Plans may now be developed for a 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program offering farmers almost twice as much assistance for conservation practices as was available under this year's program.

For the current fiscal year, the Agriculture Department Appropriation Act sets aside \$150 million for the 1948 program, including administrative expenses. This was the amount Congress authorized last year for developing the 1948 program. Congress this year has authorized the development of a 1949 program amounting to \$262.5 million.

Other items in the appropriation act include: Soil Conservation Service, \$45,048,000; Farmers' Home Administration production and subsistence loans, \$75 million; Rural Electrification Administration loans, \$400 million; Research and Marketing Act of 1946, \$13,850,000; School Lunch Program, \$75 million.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

FARM PRICE-SUPPORT PROGRAM EXPLAINED - Recent price support legislation provides some modifications of the so-called "wartime" programs which expire at the end of 1948, but most of the 1949 supports will be similar to those now in effect, according to C. V. Hemphill, State PMA Chairman. He outlined the major provisions governing 1949 Government programs to protect farm prices as follows:

The basic crops of corn, wheat, rice, tobacco, and peanuts grown in 1949 and marketed before June 30, 1950 are to be supported at 90 percent of parity. This is the same level at which these crops have been supported recently. The support on cotton grown in 1949 and marketed before June 30, 1950 is reduced to 90 percent of parity from the 1948 support level of  $92\frac{1}{2}$  percent.

Supports at 90 percent of parity are extended on hogs, chickens, eggs, milk, and milk products marketed before January 1, 1950. Potatoes harvested before January 1, 1949 are to be supported at 90 percent of parity.

Edible dry beans and peas, turkeys, soybeans and flaxseed and peanuts for oil, American Egyptian cotton, sweet potatoes, are directed to be supported until January 1, 1950 at a level which may range from 60 percent of parity to the 1948 level of support for that commodity. This same provision applies to Irish potatoes harvested after January 1, 1949. The support level announced under the 1948 program on these crops has been 90 percent of parity or higher.

Wool prices under the new legislation are to be supported at present levels until June 30, 1950.

Lending and purchase operations for price support for other agricultural commodities during 1949 are to be carried out to the extent of available funds.

The Secretary of Agriculture may require compliance with production goals and marketing regulations as a condition to price support.



Beginning January 1, 1950, Mr. Hemphill explained, the "long-range" farm price support provisions become effective. These generally provide for a level of support somewhat lower than during war years but higher than was authorized by earlier basic legislation. Price supports for tobacco, however, are directed at 90 percent of parity when marketing quotas are in effect. Wool is to be supported at 60 to 90 percent of parity, at whatever level the Secretary determines is necessary to encourage the annual production of 360 million pounds of shorn wool.

Except when necessary to increase or maintain production in the interest of national security, no support under the long-range program can be higher than 90 percent of parity or a comparable price. Minimum price supports on basic crops will be determined according to the relationship between total and normal supplies of the commodity, the larger the supply, the lower the minimum level of support.

The legislation also provides a new method for calculating parity prices beginning January 1950. The general level of parity prices will continue to be based on the 1910-1914 period. However, the relationship among the parity prices for individual agricultural commodities will be based on the immediate past 10-year period of actual prices. Provision is made to prevent parity prices for individual commodities from dropping more than 5 percent per year below parity prices as they would be calculated under the present formula.

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HOLD SOIL WITH VEGETATION - Soil erosion damage is consistently heavier on land planted to a clean-tilled crop year after year than on land in good rotations. Soil losses, as well as water losses, from fallow land bare of vegetation are uniformly much greater than from land in grass or trees.

C. V. Hemphill, chairman of the New Mexico PMA committee, cites the results of 5 tests in major farming areas which show rather startling comparisons. In these tests the time required for erosion to strip 7 inches of topsoil from five





types of land with dense cover ranges from 3900 to 95,800 years. Where the land is subjected continuously to clean tillage, it takes 16 to 51 years.

Where clean tilled crops were rotated with close-growing crops and the humus was allowed to build up in the soil, erosion was greatly reduced.

The tests were made at soil conservation experiment stations at Bethany, Missouri; Tyler, Texas; Guthrie, Oklahoma; Clarinda, Iowa; and Statesville, North Carolina. Measurements of erosion in a number of other major agricultural regions of the country have produced similar results.

The Agricultural Conservation Program encourages and assists farmers in setting up a soil-saving rotation. Assistance is given in the establishing and maintaining of a good protective vegetative cover. According to Mr. Hemphill it is a program to make the farms last the 95,000 years or longer and to keep them from being destroyed in less than a man's lifetime.

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WHOSE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM? - Conservation of our soil and water resources is vital to everyone -- townspeople as well as farmers, says \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county agricultural conservation committee. Speaking as a farmer, he points out that the health and welfare of this and succeeding generations depend upon how productive "we keep our land and the use we make of water that falls on the land."

Every part of the Agricultural Conservation Program and everything done under it, he explains, is aimed at protecting the Nation's soil and water resources and is in the National interest. Every practice which farmers carry out with the cooperative assistance of the Program is a means of assuring a continued food and fiber supply.

From the standpoint of maintaining the food supply, the people who live in cities and towns are the beneficiaries of the Agricultural Conservation Program.





In addition to assuring production, food from properly conserved soil contains more of the essential minerals. The program, the chairman points out, is essentially a national insurance policy against food shortage and reduced quality.

Conservation farming also means more stability in agriculture and in the trades that depend on agriculture. Everyone benefits from the conservation practices carried out under the ACP program, the chairman points out.

For the current year, \$150 million has been appropriated by Congress to carry on the Program. This means, says the chairman, an average of about \$1 per person to carry on this essential work. This is the cost of the food insurance policy. With what the farmer contributes, the Nation receives at least \$300 million worth of conservation for the \$150 million appropriated.

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#### F A R M   B R I E F

Over 48,000 farmers in the U. S. terraced more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million acres of crop land with the help of the Agricultural Conservation Program in 1946. Ninety-one New Mexico farmers terraced 3,600 acres in the same period. It is estimated that 750,000 additional acres need terracing in New Mexico.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

1949 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - Plans and provisions of the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program are "shaping up," so that farmers of New Mexico will not be delayed in making their conservation plans for the coming year. According to C. V. Hemphill, chairman of the State PMA Committee, the 1949 National Outline, approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, has been received. The National Outline is made up of practices recommended by State PMA and County Agricultural Conservation Committees after the advice and assistance of soil and crop specialists of State and Federal Agricultural Agencies. The State Agricultural Conservation Program for 1949 will be developed within the framework of the National Outline.

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BIG CROP OUTPUT MEANS CHANCE TO CONSERVE SOIL - Farmers who have been worried about the severe strain on their land because of the tremendous postwar demand for farm products can take heart from the Department of Agriculture's recent crop report, C. V. Hemphill, New Mexico Production and Marketing Administration Chairman, said today. The report predicts that crop output in 1948 may even surpass the 1946 record. Crop acreage is among the largest in recent years, and yield prospects are very good for most crops.

Farmers are encouraged that they will produce enough to provide amply for domestic consumers and for large exports to other nations, Mr. Hemphill explained. Even more encouraging is the prospect that the large grain crops forecast for 1948 may mean a start toward rebuilding our depleted carry-over stocks. To farmers this means that they can soon begin converting their farming back to a more normal peacetime basis and can produce more nearly in accordance with the conservation needs of the land itself.





"The old saying that 'It may be later than we think' was never truer than when applied to the urgent need for conserving our national soil resources," Mr. Hemphill said. "With an agricultural conservation program authorized for 1949 which is almost twice the size of this year's, farmers should really be able to mark up large gains in fighting soil erosion and depletion. I hope every farmer in the State will study carefully just how he can cooperate, this year as well as next, in the national conservation program."

Highlights of the crop report referred to by Mr. Hemphill are: A record corn crop of 3,329 million bushels, 2 percent more than the 1946 record; a wheat crop of 1,242 million bushels, the second largest in our history; rice production of 79 million bushels, almost equalling last year's record; oats and barley well above average at 1,426 and 307 million bushels, respectively; cotton acreage of almost 24 million acres, 10 percent larger than in 1947; the second largest crop of flaxseed at 44 million bushels; almost 27 million bushels of rye, the largest crop since 1943; soybean and peanut acreages, below last year but relatively large; dry beans, 18 million bags, 6 percent larger than last year.

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INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT TABLED - A Preparatory Committee will keep under review the prospects of working out a new international wheat agreement -- possibly to be brought into operation on August 1, 1949, according to a recent announcement by the International Wheat Council. The Committee will include representatives of Australia, Benelux, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, France, India, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

At the same time, the Council decided that, because chances of ratification by all participating nations within a limited period appear remote, no useful purpose would be served by continuing to study the possibility of an agreement for the

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international crop year beginning August 1 of this year. The International Wheat Agreement thus tabled represented an attempt by 36 nations to work out a dependable market for wheat-exporting countries and a dependable source of supply for importing nations. It was hoped that the agreement would operate to avoid the possible repetition of the disastrous world-trade experience which followed World War I.

In commenting on the Council's action, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan recalled that the Wheat Agreement would have guaranteed U. S. farmers a market of 185 million bushels of wheat during each of the next 5 years at a fair export price.

U. S. wheat exports have increased from an average of about 7 percent of the total world wheat trade during the 1934-38 period to more than 50 percent in the past few years. Even with production adjusted to a more desirable pattern, the Secretary said, this country would need a much larger foreign wheat market than it had before the war.

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CRUSHED HAY CURES FASTER - Crushing the stems of grasses and legumes right after they are mowed reports \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ Agricultural Conservation Program, may be the way to conserve more of their feeding value when they are made into hay current experiments indicate. At the present time it is estimate that because of faulty harvesting methods about 25 percent of the feed value of hay is lost.

Farmers who are cooperating in the ACP program are concerned with these hay-curing experiments because under the program they are growing more grasses and legumes.

One of the faults with the present hay-curing methods are that it takes so long to dry the course stems of hay plants that the leaves get too dry, fall off



and are lost. Though the leaves of legumes make up only 50 percent of the weight of the plants they contain 75 percent of the protein.

The principal parts of a machine which does the crushing of hay plants are two rollers. The plants go through the rollers immediately after they are cut by the mower.

A comparison of how fast Johnson grass, Sudan grass and soybeans cured when crushed and when uncrushed was made in Mississippi. Johnson grass cut at 6 in the morning was down to 17 percent moisture content and ready to be baled at 6 o'clock that evening. Uncrushed Johnson grass required 45 hours of curing.

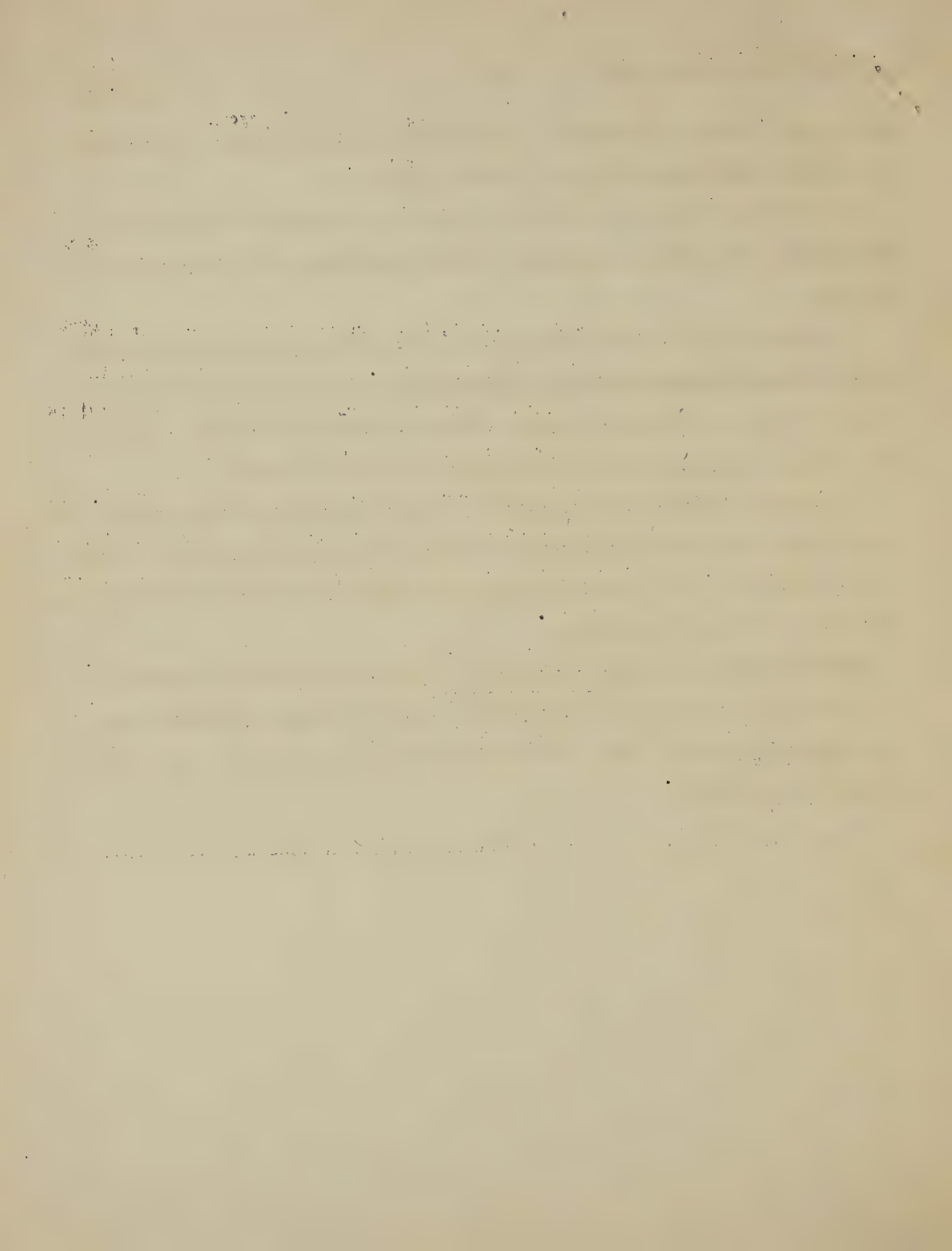
In another experiment Johnson grass was cut at 10 o'clock in the morning. The crushed plants were down to 20 percent moisture and ready to be baled by 1 o'clock the next afternoon. In contrast, the uncrushed Johnson grass was not ready to bale until the second day after cutting.

Crushed Sudan grass required 27 hours to cure and 72 hours when uncrushed.

Soybeans cut and cured for 25 hours were ready for baling. Uncrushed soybeans required 29 hours to cure, and there was less loss of beans in the crushed hay than the uncrushed.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

ACP CONVERTS ARROYO TO MEADOW - In 1938 the monstrous Gobernador arroyo consumed tons of precious soil from the ranch now owned by Carl Prehn of San Juan county. A few weeks ago Mr. Prehn pointed with pride at the results achieved through the assistance of the Agricultural Conservation Programs. Mr. Prehn and previous owners of the ranch have systematically carried out erosion control practices along this arroyo, which originally was about 30-feet wide and 10-feet deep. Now the arroyo is practically level with silt and has been seeded to adapted pasture grasses.

"From this 100-acre area we have already cut and baled 102 tons of hay this year," Mr. Prehn told ACP officials as they gazed over the long-winding green meadow. "The results of this conservation work are being reflected in a better calf crop and heavier calves at market time," Mr. Prehn concluded.

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"RAISE MORE PIGS," FARMERS ARE URGED - Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan has again urged farmers to increase the fall pig crop by at least 10 percent. Holding back, rather than selling, bred sows and gilts now on hand offers the first and most rapid means of increasing the Nation's red meat supply, the Secretary pointed out.

Farmers can plan to expand the number of sows they keep for farrowing this fall with increased confidence, according to Secretary Brannan. This belief is based on (1) excellent prospects for 1948 feed crop production, (2) the probable strong demand for meats next year, and (3) assurance of continued price support.

Under recent legislation, Government price supports on hogs continue during 1949 at 90 percent of parity. This is the same level of support that has been in effect the past several years. Supports during the hog marketing year fluctuate



seasonally, but the present annual support level is \$16.85 per 100 pounds, Chicago basis. The current 6-month price-support period extends through September.

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PURCHASE AGREEMENTS PROTECT GRAIN PRICES - Farmers in \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ County can protect the price of their grain crops this year through two methods, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee, points out.

Purchase agreements as well as commodity loans will be offered to farmers as a means of price support on 1948 crops of wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye and grain sorghums, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ said. Terms will be practically the same as on the 1947 crops. Corn under loan must be stored on farms.

Under purchase agreements, the producer states the maximum quantity of the commodity upon which he wishes an option to deliver to the Commodity Credit Corporation. The producer may then sell his grain on the market at the market price, or he may deliver to CCC any amount of his grain crop up to the stated maximum at the price-support figure. CCC will accept the grain under purchase agreements during the 30 days following the maturity date of the 1948 loans, which is April 30, 1949, or earlier on demand.

Both loans and purchase agreements may be obtained at the County Agricultural Conservation office.

Price-support rates per bushel on 1948 grain crops in \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ County are: Wheat, \$\_\_\_\_\_; oats, \_\_\_\_\_ cents; barley, \$\_\_\_\_\_; and grain sorghums, \$\_\_\_\_\_ per hundred pounds. Farm prices for corn will be supported at 90 percent of the parity price as of October 1.

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PURPOSE OF ACP STRESSED BY COUNTY CHAIRMAN - To help farmers prevent soil deterioration is the primary purpose of the soil and water conservation practices which farmers carry out under the Agricultural Conservation Program, says \_\_\_\_\_,





chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county agricultural conservation committee.

According to the chairman, the program stresses such primary problems as:

(1) Keeping soils from washing and blowing away; (2) Rebuilding soils that have become depleted and run-down; (3) Retaining and improving the productivity and tilth; (4) Improving permanent pasture and range land; (5) Protecting watersheds as an aid in flood control; (6) Leveling irrigated cropland; (7) and making better use of irrigation water.

Practices which in reality are used only to increase production in the current season or the immediate future and which make no essential contribution to a system of conservation farming, have no place in the Agricultural Conservation Program, says the chairman.

The program is a means of assisting farmers in carrying out conservation practices over and above those which would be performed without program assistance, the chairman adds. It is expected, says the chairman, the assistance provided for approved practices will stimulate additional conservation activities on each farm. In the many years of operation this has proved to be the case.

The chairman states: "As the steward of his land, each farmer has a key responsibility in protecting the land from erosion and depletion. The program is to help him with basic conservation practices which he would not carry out otherwise and for which assistance is necessary to get the work done."

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